

Contributions

MONTREAL NEWS

J. C. CASSEL

According to previous arrangement I arrived in Montreal on April 24th. One of the objects of my coming here was to look after a *mission work* recently abandoned by the German Baptist Brethren church. The prime mover and principal supporter of the work here was Elder Henry B. Maldeis. From him I have gathered these facts:

Brother Maldeis is of German descent, came to the United States at about the age of sixteen years, and about that time confessed Christ and joined the German branch of the American Baptist church. He became a close student of the Word and thus discovered that that church did not teach the whole truth. Not knowing of any church that did obey the commandments as given in the word of God, he secured a book on denominational church history and from that learned of the teaching of the Dunkard church. He was then living in Baltimore, Md., and upon learning that there were some members of the G. B. church living in that city, he sought an acquaintance with them, but before joining the church his business called him to Lancaster City, Pa. He at once formed an acquaintance with the brethren there and an appointment was made for his baptism at Lititz, a point about six miles out from the city. He wore a full beard then, as he does now; when the Elder in charge saw that he told him he could not baptize him unless he shaved his upper lip; but as Brother Maldeis was taught of the Word and not in "Dunkardism" he refused to yield the point, and returned to the city without being baptized. When some of the more liberal members of that church learned of this circumstance they made it an issue in the church councils and it was finally decided that he should be received with his full beard and that the elder that refused to baptize him should make proper acknowledgments to him, which he did.

The above took place about eleven years ago; three years later Brother Maldeis was called to this city to take charge of a large harness making establishment, where he has lived since.

There being no church of his choice in Montreal, he frequented other churches and often when error was taught or important truth evaded, he would testify of the truth as it is in Jesus; while this course occasioned persecution on the one hand, it also brought support on the other. In the course of time his friends, lovers of the truth, urged him to open a mission of his own. He conferred with the proper authorities of his church and about three years ago the work was begun very auspiciously and for a while it promised good results, but unfortunately it was at first under the control of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which is probably the most "hidebound" district to be found anywhere

in that famous church. Brother Maldeis was ordained and put in charge of the work, but occasionally Elder Leight, of Lancaster County, Pa., would visit the mission and preach the order. Later however the work was regarded as a foreign mission and was transferred from the above district to the general mission board of the church, after which, at the request of Brother Maldeis a missionary was stationed here and some members were received; then the order became an issue and a young sister wearing the regulation "bonnet" was sent here to introduce it among the sisters, very reluctantly a few of them yielded the point and put on the "bonnets."

This city is owned and controlled by the Roman Catholics. The priests and sisters of charity and members of other "orders" traverse the streets in their specific garbs; when the German Baptist sisters appeared on the streets with the "bonnet" they were at first regarded as being members of some Catholic "order" and were respected and even revered by children "crossing" themselves and bowing before them, but when it was noticed that they appeared on the streets with their husbands, or with men, they were at once renounced as reprobates and prostitutes, so that they could not wear the "bonnet" and sustain a reputation of Christian character in this papal city. This was too hard to bear in the absence of any scriptural occasion for it, consequently they refused to continue to obey the "powers that be," and the natural result was the missionary left, and the work was abandoned. This took place a month ago.

Brethren, the tongue-foolery of the Trine Immersion Adventist church and the bonnet-foolery of the German Baptist church, the latter is the worst. The former do not make their "tongues" a condition of membership, but the latter do their hideous "bonnets," and there is more authority for the "tongues" than there is for the "bonnets."

Thru the bonnet-introducing sister, Brother Maldeis learned that there was another branch of the trine immersion church, but she did not know any of our members, nor where our publishing house was. After writing to several of the G. B's he finally learned of our whereabouts and subscribed for the EVANGELIST and wrote to the brethren at Ashland and to Brother Talley, the president of the mission board about the work here. When I learned these facts I determined to come up here to look into affairs, and at the same time give attention to business of a secular nature.

I find Brother Maldeis to be a man of strong convictions and wholly consecrated to the service of the Master. He is greatly rejoicing over the fact that he has at last found a church with no creed but the Bible and very naturally is anxious to see the work continued that was so hopefully begun.

It is not necessary to state that the work has suffered violence under German Baptist control, so that it will be more difficult to

re-establish it now than it would have been to build it up from the start, but there are still some six or seven members that will stand by it, and quite a few that are favorably impressed with the doctrine of our church. I had an audience of some forty to preach to on Sunday evening.

The hall where the mission has been carried on for over three years has been rented to another mission, so it will be necessary to move, if the work is to be continued. Moreover the location was not a good one for a church mission, as it was located in a manufacturing quarter of the city. I recommended the renting of a store room in a residential part of the city. This also meets the approbation of Brother Maldeis, who will look up a place and report to me as to the location, the size of the room and the amount of the rent. If a suitable place can be found at a reasonable rent I think it would be well to give the work a year's trial in the principal city of Canada.

Brother Maldeis occupies a permanent and remunerative position in a large manufacturing establishment, so that he can carry on the work without cost, and rents do not appear to be as high in Montreal as they are in most American cities, consequently it will not cost a great deal to make the effort.

In the event of the mission being continued I do not know whether it will be regarded "home" or "foreign" work by the brethren. I suppose National Conference will pass upon that. At present I am acting upon my personal responsibility, and will await the approval or disapproval of the church thru one or the other of her Boards.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

P. J. BROWN

Amen, brother B. C. M., I think with all the advancement of scientific developments of our fast developing age, there is more room for the inspring of more light, but let us beware that our light be not darkness lest the question of the Savior, "How great is that darkness?" might apply.

I am somewhat concerned about our esteemed Brother Moomaw. I am afraid he has "looked creation thru," and what he thinks he sees beyond is only a mirage instead of actual objects. In his article on page 3 of EVANGELIST No. 19 he says "For example literalists used to believe that the world was created in six days of twenty-four hours each, which according to Bible chronology could not have been quite six thousand years ago." I for one, as a literalist, deny the correctness of this statement, and I know of no one who does or ever did so believe. That men who became so wise that they deny the inspiration of the Bible have jumped at the conclusion that this is our belief I am not ignorant of but I most positively deny the correctness of their conclusions. If the infidel can undermine the Bible by digging into the earth and finding